

Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors Overview

I. What is the mission of the Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors?

The Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors...

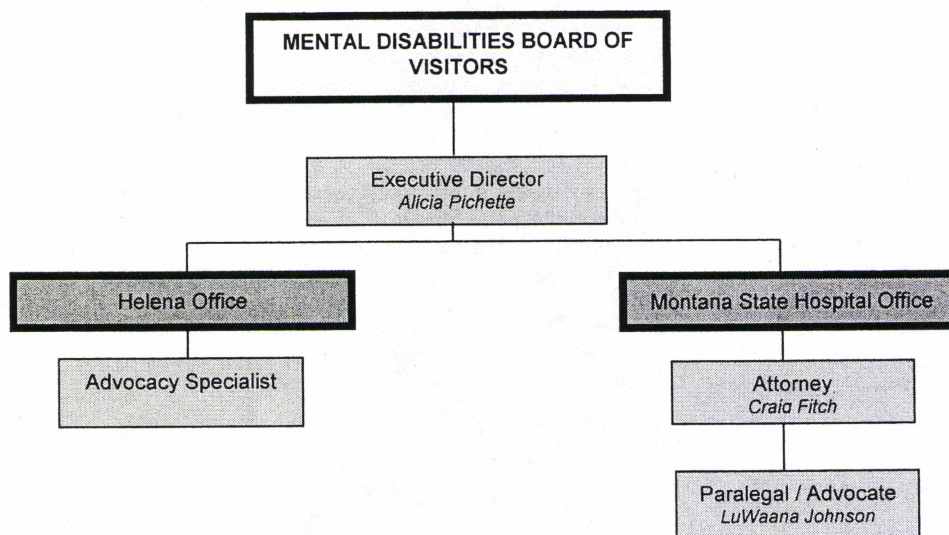
- provides independent oversight and critique of treatment provided by the Montana Developmental Center and Montana's public mental health programs and makes recommendations for their improvement;
- works to ensure that everyone with a mental illness or developmental disability receiving services in the Montana Developmental Center and Montana's public mental health facilities has access to effective, evidence-based treatment and supports that are essential for living, working, learning, and participating fully in the community.

II. Where is BOV in the state of Montana organizational chart?

2-15-211, MCA. Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors -- composition -- allocation.

- (3) The mental disabilities board of visitors is attached to the governor for administrative purposes. It may employ staff for the purpose of carrying out its duties as set out in Title 53, chapter 20, part 1, and chapter 21, part 1.

Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors Organizational Chart



III. What does the Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors do?

The Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors was created in 1975 by the Montana Legislature to provide independent oversight of publicly funded mental health facilities and developmental disabilities residential facilities.

53-20-104, MCA

Powers and duties of Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors – Developmental Disabilities Act

- (1) The board is an independent board of inquiry and review established to ensure that the treatment of all persons committed to a residential facility [for people with developmental disabilities] is humane and decent and meets the requirements set forth in this part.

53-21-104, MCA

Powers and duties of Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors – Mental Commitment and Treatment Act

- (1) The board is an independent board of inquiry and review that is responsible to ensure that the treatment of all persons either voluntarily or involuntarily admitted to a mental facility in Montana is humane, is consistent with established clinical and other professional standards, and meets the requirements set forth in this part.

IV. Who is on the Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors?

2-15-211, MCA

Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors -- composition -- allocation.

- (1) The governor shall appoint a mental disabilities board of visitors.
- (2) (a) The board shall consist of six persons who possess qualifications necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the board defined in 53-20-104 and 53-21-104.
- (b) The members of the board must meet the following requirements:
- (i) one person must possess skills, knowledge, and experience relative to the treatment and welfare of adults with serious disabling mental illnesses;
 - (ii) one person must possess skills, knowledge, and experience relative to the treatment and welfare of children with serious emotional disturbances;
 - (iii) one person must possess skills, knowledge, and experience relative to the treatment and welfare of adults with developmental disabilities;
 - (iv) one person must be a consumer of mental health services or a family member of a consumer of mental health services; and
 - (v) one person must be a consumer of developmental disabilities services or a family member of a person with developmental disabilities.
- (c) The members of the board must also meet the following requirements:
- (i) at least one board member must be a professional person in the field of mental health treatment;
 - (ii) at least one board member must be a professional person in the field of developmental disabilities treatment; and
 - (iii) no more than three board members may be professional persons in the fields of mental health treatment and developmental disabilities treatment.
- (d) A member of the board may not be a full-time agent or employee of the department of public health and human services or a mental health facility affected by Title 53, chapter 20, part 1, and Title 53, chapter 21, part 1, except this prohibition does not affect any employee of a state college or university.
- (e) Board members serve for 2-year terms. The terms are staggered so that one-half of the terms expire June 30 of each year.

Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors:

Brodie Moll

Ronan

Nancy Morton

Missoula

Constance Frank

Billings

Betty N. Cooper

Heart Butte

Patricia Harant

Helena

Lin Olson

Helena

V. Who staffs the Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors?

2-15-211, MCA

Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors -- composition -- allocation

- (3) The mental disabilities board of visitors is attached to the governor for administrative purposes. It may employ staff for the purpose of carrying out its duties as set out in Title 53, chapter 20, part 1, and Title 53, chapter 21, part 1.

53-20-104, MCA

Powers and duties of Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors.

- (6) The board shall employ and be responsible for full-time legal counsel at the state hospital, whose responsibility is to act on behalf of all patients at the institution. The board shall insure that there is sufficient legal staff and facilities to insure availability to all patients and shall require that the appointed counsel periodically interview every patient and examine the patient's files and records. The board may employ additional legal counsel for representation of patients in a similar manner at any other mental health facility having inpatient capability.

Mental Disabilities Board of Visitors Staff:

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|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| • Alicia Pichette, Executive Director | Helena |
| • Craig Fitch, J.D., Attorney | Montana State Hospital |
| • LuWaana Johnson, Paralegal/Advocate | Montana State Hospital |
| • Advocacy Specialist | Helena |